

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- ❑ discuss the impact of the *Lost Peace* of 1919.
- ❑ explain the political climate in Germany during the 1920s.
- ❑ discuss why people were alienated after the First World War and how the postwar alienation was reflected in the arts, psychology, philosophy, and literature.

Review questions p. 926-934

1. Explain why and how Nietzsche, Bergson, and Sorel began the revolt against the idea of progress and the general faith in the rational human mind.

Nietzsche – “God is dead” – discussed the meaninglessness of human existence

Bergson – here and now are more important than scientific thinking

Sorel – Socialism via violent strike was needed, would be controlled by the elite

All challenged faith in human rationality, progress, reason, God

1b. How did Wittgenstein add to this belief?

2. Describe the impact the loss of faith in reason and progress had on 20th century Christian thought.

3. According to Freud, what is the relationship between the id, ego, and superego?

Human behavior is a product of fragile compromise between instinctual drives and the controls of rational thinking and moral values. The unconscious (ID) is driven by sexual aggressive pleasure seeking desires and locked in a constant battle with the rationalizing conscious (Ego) that mediates what a person can do and the ingrained moral values (Superego) that specify what a person should do.

4. Define and describe the stream-of-consciousness technique and how it was used in 20th century literature.

A technique used to explore the psyche that reflected the ideas, emotions, thoughts, etc. of individuals. It was used to express the confusion and uncertainty of the post-WWI world

Page 935-940

5. Compare and contrast Gauguin's and Le Corbusier's concepts of art.

Gauguin believed subject didn't have to be portrayed as the eye sees it. An expressionist painter, focused on tranquility and mysticism

Le Corbusier – Functionalism – no useless ornamentation

6. How do impressionism and expressionism reflect the rationality and irrationality of the 19th and 20th centuries, respectively?

Impressionism – 19th century – sought to capture the momentary overall feeling or impression

Expressionism – 20th century – more abstract (post-impressionist) – wanted to portray complicated psychological view of reality – reflects age of anxiety

7. What influence did Freud have on 20th century painting?

Influenced expressionism and the idea that there is no rational and progressive human nature. He also led to abstract and expression of the complicated psychological view of reality and emotional intensity

8. Describe the political impact of radio and film.

They were very influential and well-suited for propaganda and reaching a national audience for Hitler, Mussolini, etc. Fireside chats used to bolster support of political leaders. Movies became a tool of indoctrination and political manipulation

Page 940-944

9. What were the attitudes of Britain, France, and Germany toward the Treaty of Versailles?

Britain felt somewhat guilty for the harshness on Germany and the potential loss of German markets. It also was suspicious of France and tension between the two mounted over mandates in the Middle East.

France wanted strict implementation of the treaty and a permanently weakened Germany

Germany saw it as a harsh, dictated peace that was humiliating and in need of revision

10. The most serious international crisis of the 1920s occurred in the Ruhr in January 1923. Explain the cause and consequence of the crisis.

Germany defaulted on reparations and France and Belgium began to occupy the area to collect or keep occupation. German workers there went on strike (passive resistance) and Germans began printing money to pay their bills. This led to runaway inflation.

11. Describe the role of the United States in the economic and political settlements of the mid-1920s in Europe.

Economic: *Dawes Plan – rescheduled Germany's reparations, provided loans to promote Germany's recovery. US loaned Germany money, who then paid France and Britain, who then repaid loans to US.*

Political: *Lacarno Agreement – nations agreed to not use war as a means of settlement*

12. Identify the problems facing the British governments of the 1920s and the ideas the Labour party had to approach these problems.

Problem: *Unemployment*

Solution: *provided benefits of equal size to the unemployed, subsidized housing, medical care, increased old age pension*

13. Discuss the origins, interests, and goals of the Labour and Liberal parties in Britain.

Labour – *champion of the working class and social equality, committed to revisionist socialism, moved toward socialism gradually.*

Liberal -

Page 944-952

14. What were the causes of the Great Depression?

Stock market crash of 1929 – stock boom based on borrowed money

15. Why was the Scandinavian response to the economic crisis the most successful one in the Western democracies?

They used large-scale deficits to fund public workers, increased social welfare benefits

Identify and explain the significance of the following people and terms

Nietzsche's dictum "God is dead" – *Claimed that Christianity glorified weakness, envy, etc. Pillars of conventional morality had been killed by outward social and psychological constraints*

Gustav Stresemann – *Became leader of Germany in 1923, called off passive resistance in Ruhr and agreed to pay reparations but asked for re-examination of payment schedule. France agreed*

quanta – uneven spurts of energy emitted by subatomic energy, proven by German physicist Max Planck, implied that matter and energy might be different forms of the same thing.

Ramsay MacDonald – *Leader of the Labour Party in England*

"Little Entente" of 1921 – *Alliance between Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia against Hungary, France, & Poland*

Munich beer hall "revolution" of 1923 – *Hitler proclaimed a national socialist revolution, which failed, and he was imprisoned where he would write Mein Kampf*

Lacarno meetings of 1925 - *Leaders of Europe met and Germany and France agreed to accept a common border. Britain and Italy agreed to fight France or Germany if one invaded the other. Stresemann agreed to settle border dispute with Poland peacefully*

French Popular Front - *Alliance formed out of fear of fascists by Communists, Socialists, and Radicals for the 1936 national election. Victory reflected traditional trend toward polarization*

BBC – *British Broadcasting Corporation – set up by Parliament and funded by licensing fees – national news information source*

John Maynard Keynes – *English economist who said the harsh treatment of Germany would lead to economic hardships in all countries.*

Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928 – *15 countries signed an agreement condemning and renouncing war as an instrument of national policy and agreed to settle disputes peacefully. Had no provisions for action in case of war*

Dawes Plan – *Provided US loans to help stabilize Germany's economy, restructured reparation payments*

Adolf Hitler – *Leader of Nazi Germany*

modern existentialism – *Did not believe a supreme being had established humans, nature, and given life meaning. People must act and are defined by their actions and choices. Reinforced post-WWI conditions (bad) in Germany in 1920s*

functionalism in architecture – *Buildings like industrial products should serve a purpose. Eliminated ornamentation. Frank Lloyd Wright*

cubism – *Artistic style founded by Picasso that concentrated on a complex geometry of zig-zag lines and sharply angled, overlapping planes*

dadaism – *artistic movement of 1920s and 1930s attacked accepted standards of art and behavior and delighted in the outrageous*

surrealism – *Focused on a fantastic world of wild dreams and complex symbols where watches melted, and giant metronomes beat time in precisely drawn but impossible alien landscapes. Made powerful statements about the age of anxiety*

expressionism in music – *pulsating rhythms, dissonant sounds, etc.*

Explain who the following people were and note how their work contributed to and reflected the uncertainty and anxiety in modern thought.

Paul Valéry – *French poet (1871-1945) expressed the state of uncertainty of the post-WWI period*

Henri Bergson – *French philosopher – believed immediate experience and intuition were as important as rational and scientific thinking for understanding reality*

Jean-Paul Sartre – *French existentialist believed humans simply exist and are hounded by despair and the meaninglessness of life*

Max Planck – *see quanta – challenged old view of distinction between matter & energy*

Albert Einstein - *German-born scientist – theory of relativity*

Ernest Rutherford – *1919 – showed that the atom could be split, leading the way for the neutron bomb*

Marcel Proust – *German physicist – Principle of Uncertainty – the position and speed of an individual electron can't be known, it is impossible to predict its behavior, Much different from Newton's predictability*

George Orwell – *English writer wrote 1984, big brother (a dictator) and a totalitarian state use a new kind of language; technology, psychological terror to strip a weak individual of his dignity. Picture of the future, a boot stomping in a human face.*

Oswald Spengler – *German writer, The Decline of the West – said every culture experiences a life cycle of growth and decline and western civilization was in old age, approaching death from conquests of the yellow race.*